



July 5, 2023

The Honorable Carlos Villapudua
Chair, Assembly Committee on Jobs, Economic Development, and the Economy
1021 O St., Suite 6340
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Senate Bill 418 (Padilla) – Support
As Amended May 18, 2023**

Dear Assembly Member Villapudua:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we support SB 418, authored by Senator Padilla (D-San Diego). This measure would establish the California Prison Redevelopment Commission and task it with developing recommendations that will repurpose closed state prison facilities into community assets. RCRC represents 40 of California's rural counties and the RCRC Board is made up of one locally-elected Supervisor from each member county.

Several of our member counties are home to California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) facilities. Recently, CDCR announced the planned closure of the Chuckawalla Valley State Prison located in the City of Blythe. Compounded with the closure of the California Correctional Center located in Susanville in June of this year, rural communities stand to lose critical jobs and economic drivers, particularly when prison closures are not paired with reasonable plans to redevelop the closed facilities. Without the recognition of the economic importance these facilities provide and with no clear direction from the State, local jurisdictions will struggle to keep workers and their families, which further weakens areas that are already disadvantaged.

SB 418 recognizes the need for this pairing of closures and long-term planning, which will lead to thoughtful considerations of the impact of prison facility closures statewide. RCRC appreciates that the measure would utilize the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development to oversee this new commission, as the problem is one of economic development and not incarceration. Furthermore, we appreciate the need to incorporate the feedback of communities impacted by prison closures, as they stand to lose the most of a thoughtful approach is not utilized. This process can still maintain the State's objectives in reducing incarceration without jeopardizing jobs and communities as a byproduct.

1215 K Street, Suite 1650, Sacramento, CA 95814 | www.rcrcnet.org | 916.447.4806 | Fax: 916.448.3154

ALPINE · AMADOR · BUTTE · CALAVERAS · COLUSA · DEL NORTE · EL DORADO · GLENN · HUMBOLDT · IMPERIAL · INYO · KINGS · LAKE · LASSEN
MADERA · MARIPOSA · MENDOCINO · MERCED · MODOC · MONO · MONTEREY · NAPA · NEVADA · PLACER · PLUMAS · SAN BENITO · SAN LUIS OBISPO
SANTA BARBARA · SHASTA · SIERRA · SISKIYOU · SOLANO · SONOMA · SUTTER · TEHAMA · TRINITY · TULARE · TUOLUMNE · YOLO · YUBA

The Honorable Carlos Villapudua
Senate Bill 418 (Padilla)
July 5, 2023
Page 2

For the above reasons, we respectfully request your “Aye” vote when this measure is heard before your Committee. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mary-Ann Warmerdam at mwarmerdam@rcrcnet.org.

Sincerely,



MARY-ANN WARMERDAM
Senior Vice President, Government Affairs
RCRC

cc: The Honorable Steve Padilla, Member of the California State Senate
Members of the Assembly Committee on Jobs, Economic Development, and the
Economy
Carla Castilla, Chief Consultant, Assembly Committee on Natural Resources
Jenna Guillen, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus